

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR 1 MAR 50

SUBJECT The Czechoslovak Leather Industry

NO. OF PAGES 1

25X1

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO.

25X1

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION RELATING TO NATIONAL DEFENSE OR SECURITY WHICH IS SUBJECT TO THE RESTRICTIONS OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT OF 1917, U.S. C. 91 AND 50, AS AMENDED. REPRODUCTION OR THE RELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IS AN ACT OF AUTHORIZED PERSON TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

25X1 1. The Czech leather industry is represented by the firm of Bata in Zlin. All other factories, except a few very small ones, have been dissolved and the whole production in Czechoslovakia is under control of Bata.

2. At the end of 1949 Bata employed 28,000 workers, 4,000 of which were in the machinery departments and the rest engaged on boot and rubber production. The monthly output of the boot department is 4,000,000 pairs of shoes of various kinds, including ladies' shoes, slippers, shoes with canvas uppers, etc. In an emergency, Bata could undertake to produce 100,000 pairs of military leather boots a month.

3. Forty percent of the shoe production is earmarked for export, but because of the poor quality export figures and sales on the home market have declined to such an extent that approximately 4,000,000 pairs of shoes were held in storage towards the end of 1949. The poor quality of leather shoes is explained by the fact that the tanning period of hides, which is normally three months, had to be considerably reduced because of a shortage of leather supplies.

4. Czechoslovakia's home production of hides of various kinds covers only 25 percent of her total requirements, and hides to the value of approximately 670,000,000 Czech crowns have to be imported annually. Present supplies suffice for only four months, and there is a permanent shortage of box calf and hardly any "oat skin" leather (chevraux). Before 1939 most of the box calf leather came from Poland, but under the present trade treaty Poland does not deliver any box calf to Czechoslovakia, preferring to sell it elsewhere for dollars.

5. Russia, Poland, and Hungary do not supply any leather to Czechoslovakia, and hides have to be imported mainly from Argentina in return for Czech machinery and locomotives. Czechoslovakia fears that if other countries started to supply Argentina with the machinery wanted, the import of hides might be reduced to such an extent as to seriously endanger the whole Czech leather industry.

25X1 [REDACTED] Comment: The Bata concern is now Svit, and Zlin has been renamed Gottwaldov.

CLASSIFICATION

25X1

STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCIS	<input type="checkbox"/> FBI	DISTRIBUTION			
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIR						

Document No. 006
No Change in Class.

Declassified
Class. Changed To: TS S 25X

Auth: HB 70-2
Date: 14 JUN 1978 By [REDACTED]